

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 – 25 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 3 – 25 have been rejected. No new claims have been added.

Claims 1, 3, 5 – 9, 11 – 15, 17 – 20, and 22 – 25 stand rejected under Aram, U.S. Publication Number 2002/0072986 (Aram) in view of Tanaka et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,946,663 (Tanaka). Claims 4, 10, 16 and 21 stand rejected under Aram in view of Tanaka, in further view of Peterson et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,539,360 B (Peterson).

The present invention, as set forth by independent claim 1, relates to a method of ordering material. The method includes considering a quantity of a material available from a plurality of suppliers via a computer system, considering a quantity of a material available from a plurality of supplier logistics centers via a computer system, identifying a supplier or a supplier logistics center to receive an order for the material based upon the considering, and sending electronically an order for the particular material to the supplier or supplier logistics center identified to receive the order. The material is not ordered until a manufacturer realizes a demand. The manufacturer realizes the demand for the material after orders are received from customers. Fulfilling the orders requires assembling the products and assembling the products requires the material.

The present invention, as set forth by independent claim 7, relates to a method of assembling a computer system. The method includes considering a quantity of a material available from a plurality of suppliers via a computer system, considering a quantity of a material available from a plurality of supplier logistics centers via a computer system, identifying a supplier or a supplier logistics center to receive an order for the material, ordering the material from the supplier or supplier logistics center identified to receive the order, and assembling the computer system at an assembly facility from the material received at the assembly facility.

The present invention, as set forth by independent claim 13, relates to a method of manufacturing a computer system. The method includes considering a quantity of material available from a plurality of suppliers via a computer system, considering a quantity of a material available from a plurality of supplier logistics centers via a computer system, identifying a

supplier to receive an order for the material based upon the considering, sending electronically an order for material to the supplier or supplier logistics center identified to receive the order, and manufacturing the computer system at a manufacturing facility using the material received at the manufacturing facility.

The present invention, as set forth by independent claim 19, relates to a computer system, wherein the computer system is assembled by a method. The method includes considering a quantity of material available from a plurality of suppliers, considering a quantity of a material available from a plurality of supplier logistics centers, identifying a supplier or a supplier logistics center to receive an order for the material based upon the considering, sending electronically an order for the material to the supplier or supplier logistics center identified to receive the order, and assembling the computer at an assembly facility.

Aram discloses a system for the acquisition, supply and management of goods and parts for goods. A computer system includes a database for storing parts-related data. The database is arranged for providing a first table which includes a part identifier and a corresponding indication of a level of stock of the identified part held by a supplier, and a second table which includes the part identifier and a corresponding indication of at least one order for the identified part from a customer. The system software includes a first interface application for accessing the first table to make an offer to supply the identified part to the requester; an order receiving application for receiving an order to supply the identified part to the requester in response to the offer, and for storing the order in the data store; and a second interface application to co-operate with the communication means to provide access for the supplier to the second table.

Tanaka discloses a method of planning a production schedule which has a production order preparing unit which, in response to an order, the completed product stock is allocated to the previous production schedule planned before an order change, and which prepares a production order. The production schedule which is previously planned is allocated to the production order which has been subjected to allocation of the completed product stock to the order, in accordance with information such as the product identification, the quantity, and the delivery time. The allocated portion of the previous production schedule is used as it is in the current production schedule.

Peterson discloses a process for distributing items, especially industrial maintenance repair and operating (MRO) parts and supplies. The process includes identifying a plurality of vendors selling an item. An information network is established by which each vendor can communicate to the other vendors a current inventory quantity and a current price of the item each of the vendors has for sale. An agreement is established among the vendors in which a first vendor agrees to sell to a second vendor, upon demand at a future point in time, up to the then current inventory quantity of the item at the then current price communicated over the information network by the first vendor to the second vendor

The examiner sets forth that

Tanaka et al. further discloses the concept of considering delivery time in the operation request and support an early delivery in response to an order.

From this teaching of Tanaka et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modify the method of ordering goods from a distributor in Aram to include the planning and scheduling of product manufacturing from specific order as taught by Tanaka et al. in order to facilitate production of materials without keeping a large inventory at a processing factory. (Office action, page 4.)

However, Aram and Tanaka, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest sending electronically an order for the particular material to the supplier or supplier logistics center identified to receive the order much less where wherein the material is not ordered *until* a manufacturer realizes a demand where the manufacturer realizes the demand for the material *after orders are received from customers* and where fulfilling the orders requires assembling the products and assembling the products requires the material, all as required by claim 1.

More specifically, Aram, Tanaka and Peterson, taken alone or in combination do not teach or suggest a method of ordering material wherein the method includes considering a quantity of a material available from a plurality of suppliers via a computer system, considering a quantity of a material available from a plurality of supplier logistics centers via a computer system, identifying a supplier or a supplier logistics center to receive an order for the material based upon the considering, and sending electronically an order for the particular material to the supplier or supplier logistics center identified to receive the order and wherein the material is not ordered until a manufacturer realizes a demand wherein the manufacturer realizes the demand for the material after orders are received from customers wherein fulfilling the orders requires

assembling the products and assembling the products requires the material, all as required by amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Aram, Tanaka and Peterson. Claims 3 – 6 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least this reason.

Additionally, Aram and Tanaka, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest identifying a supplier or supplier logistics center to receive an order for *a material based upon considering a quantity of a material available*, much less ordering *the material* from the supplier or supplier logistic center identified to receive the order and assembling the computer system at an assembly facility from *the material* received at the assembly facility, as required by claim 7 and as generally required by claims 13 and 19.

More specifically, Aram, Tanaka and Peterson, taken alone or in combination do not teach or suggest a method of assembling a computer system wherein the method includes considering a quantity of a material available from a plurality of suppliers via a computer system, considering a quantity of a material available from a plurality of supplier logistics centers via a computer system, identifying a supplier or a supplier logistics center to receive an order for the material, ordering the material from the supplier or supplier logistics center identified to receive the order, and assembling the computer system at an assembly facility from the material received at the assembly facility, all as required by independent claim 7. Accordingly, claim 7 is allowable over Aram, Tanaka, and Peterson. Claims 8 – 12 depend from claim 7 and are allowable for at least this reason.

Aram, Tanaka and Peterson, taken alone or in combination do not teach or suggest a method of manufacturing a computer system. The method includes considering a quantity of material available from a plurality of suppliers via a computer system, considering a quantity of a material available from a plurality of supplier logistics centers via a computer system, identifying a supplier to receive an order for the material based upon the considering, sending electronically an order for material to the supplier or supplier logistics center identified to receive the order, and manufacturing the computer system at a manufacturing facility using the material received at the manufacturing facility, all as required by independent claim 13. Accordingly, claim 13 is allowable over Aram, Tanaka and Peterson. Claims 14 – 18 depend from claim 13 and are allowable for at least this reason.

Aram, Tanaka and Peterson, taken alone or in combination do not teach or suggest a computer system, wherein the computer system is assembled by a method wherein the method includes considering a quantity of material available from a plurality of suppliers, considering a quantity of a material available from a plurality of supplier logistics centers, identifying a supplier or a supplier logistics center to receive an order for the material based upon the considering, sending electronically an order for the material to the supplier or supplier logistics center identified to receive the order, and assembling the computer at an assembly facility, all as required by independent claim 19. Accordingly, claim 19 is allowable over Aram, Tanaka and Peterson. Claims 20 – 25 depend from claim 19 and are allowable for at least this reason.

CONCLUSION

The claims have been amended to improve clarity. In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the USPTO on August 19, 2004.

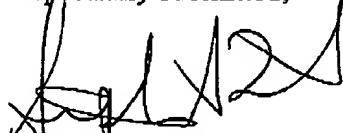


8/19/04

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Respectfully submitted,



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